

ABSTRACT

An improved guard for a medical cartridge, such as a unit dose pre-filled glass syringe, comprising a body for receiving the cartridge, and a shield slidably attached to the body which are pre-assembled and ready to receive a cartridge therein. The body has a locking mechanism on a proximal end thereof which holds the cartridge therein. The body and shield have cooperating detents and detent pockets which allow the shield to be directed distally, from an unguarded position in which the needle on the cartridge is uncovered for delivery of medication, to a guarded position in which the needle is permanently covered for disposal. The body may also include a substantially rectangular-shaped finger grip on its proximal end for receiving a similarly shaped proximal flange on the cartridge, whereby the cartridge is received in a predetermined orientation. The body may also include one or more ribs within the cavity for accommodating a cartridge with a large needle cap, such as a 0.5 mL capacity pre-filled syringe. In addition, the guard may include a finger grip plug lockably attachable to the proximal end of the body, and a plunger insertable through the finger grip plug to engage a piston in a cartridge not having its own plunger. The plunger may include a one-way locking member to

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prevent removal of the plunger from the finger grip plug after assembly.

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